

PATENT**AMENDMENT(S) TO THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A molded plastic rod comprising:
a substantially cylindrical barrel formed by an injection molding process, said barrel having an injection site on a cylindrical surface of said barrel for the injection molding process along the length thereof; and
an injection stress relieving formation in said barrel adjacent said injection site.
2. (Original) The rod of claim 1, including first and second injection stress relieving formations on opposite sides of said injection site.
3. (Original) The rod of claim 2, said first and second injection stress relieving formations being outward projections from the surface of said barrel.
4. (Original) The rod of claim 3, said first and second injection stress relieving projections being elongated along the length of the rod.
5. (Original) The rod of claim 4, said first and second elongated stress-relieving projections having tapered ends.
6. (Previously Presented) The rod of claim 5, said projections provided at a minimum incline of one degree.
7. (Previously Presented) The rod of claim 5, said projections ending at a maximum angle of 90 degrees to a tangent of the injection site.
8. (Previously Presented) The rod of claim 7, said projections provided at a minimum incline of one degree.
9. (Original) The rod of claim 8, said plastic being light transmissive.

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10. (Original) The rod of claim 1, said plastic being light transmissive.

11. (Original) The rod of claim 10, said plastic being acrylic.

12. (Currently Amended) An injection molded plastic rod for a hydrometer of a storage battery, said rod comprising:

a solid barrel formed by an injection molding process, said barrel being of light transmissive plastic having a cone shaped tip at one end thereof and an indicating surface at an opposite end thereof, with an injection site for the injection molding process along a length thereof; and

first and second injection stress relieving formations arranged symmetrically on opposite sides of said injection site.

13. (Original) The rod of claim 12, said first and second stress relieving formations being projections from the surface of said barrel.

14. (Original) The rod of claim 13, said plastic being acrylic.

15. (Original) The rod of claim 13, said projections being elongated along a length of said rod.

16. (Original) The rod of claim 15, said elongated projections having tapered ends.

17. (Previously Presented) The rod of claim 12, said first and second stress relieving formations being projections extending from a surface of said barrel at a minimum incline of one degree.

18. (Original) The rod of claim 12, said first and second stress relieving formations being projections from a surface of said barrel ending at a maximum angle of 90 degrees to a tangent of said injection site.

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19. (Previously Presented) The rod of claim 18, said projections extending at a minimum incline of one degree.

20. (Currently Amended) A method of making and using a plastic rod for a storage battery hydrometer, said method comprising steps of
providing a storage battery having an opening;
providing a mold having an elongated, substantially cylindrical barrel-forming portion and an injection gate along the barrel-forming portion;
providing a pocket in the mold adjacent the injection gate;
injecting plastic into the mold through the injection gate and flowing the plastic into the pocket as injection of plastic into the mold is completed, thereby forming said rod into a substantially, cylindrical solid piece of material with an injection stress relieving formation formed from the plastic inserted into the pocket of the mold; and
inserting said rod into said opening in said storage battery.

21. (Original) The method of claim 20 including providing two pockets symmetrically arranged on opposite sides of the injection gate, and flowing plastic into said pockets as injection of plastic into the mold is completed.